Please amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving an approval service <u>object</u> which includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider;

storage means for storing the approval service <u>object</u> received by said receiving means;

approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the information processing apparatus;

decision means for deciding whether or not to approve said prepared approval request, based on said stored approval service <u>object</u>; and

output means for outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision means.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising execution means for executing a process corresponding to said approval request in the case that said outputted result of the decision is an approval.

3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the decision condition includes a condition corresponding to the user of the information processing apparatus and the content of said approval request.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said decision condition further includes a condition corresponding to the information processing apparatus preparing said approval request.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said decision means <u>for deciding</u> determines a period for prohibiting an approval decision and rejects said approval request in the case that a current time is identified as within the prohibition period.

6. (Currently Amended) An approval system, comprising:

a service server for managing plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider and a client terminal having approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal,

wherein said client terminal further includes:

acquisition means for searching for and acquiring an approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~

registered in said service server, wherein the approval service <u>object</u> includes a decision

condition set by a user of the approval service provider;

decision performing means for performing the approval decision for said

approval request based on said acquired approval service <u>object</u>; and

output means for outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision

performing means.

7. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 6, wherein

said service provider registers said approval service <u>object</u> in said service server in

response to the insertion of a card storing information of said approval service <u>object</u> and

deletes the corresponding approval service <u>object</u> from said service server in response to

the extraction of said card.

8. (Previously Presented) An approval system according to claim 6,

wherein said client terminal further includes approval request storage means for storing

plural approval requests, the plural approval requests being prepared based on values

entered by the user of the client terminal; and

wherein said decision performing means executes the approval decision

process for the plural approval requests stored in said approval request storage means.

9. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 8, wherein

said acquisition means is constructed to search for and acquire an approval service <u>object</u>

matching said approval request among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ stored in said service server upon detecting that said client terminal is connected to said service server through a network.

10. (Original) An approval system according to claim 9, wherein said client terminal is a portable terminal.

11. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 6, wherein said acquisition means is constructed to search for and acquire an approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ stored in said service server in response to the insertion of a card storing said approval request into said client terminal.

12. (Previously Presented) An approval system according to claim 6, wherein said client terminal further includes execution means for executing a process corresponding to said approval request in the case that said outputted decision result is an approval.

13. (Previously Presented) An approval system according to claim 6, wherein the decision condition includes a condition corresponding to the user of the client terminal and the content of said approval request.

14. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 6, wherein said acquisition means further searches the approval service objects ~~services~~ stored in said approval service provider.

15. (Currently Amended) A service server comprising:

approval service storage means for storing plural approval service objects ~~services~~ instructed for registration by an approval service provider, wherein each of the approval service objects ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider; and

search and transmission means for searching for an approval service object which matches ~~matching~~ an approval request based on a search instruction received from an external apparatus and transmitting said approval service object located by the search to said external apparatus,

wherein the external apparatus decides whether or not to approve the approval request based on the transmitted approval service object, and wherein the approval request is prepared based on values entered by a user.

16. (Currently Amended) A service server according to claim 15, further comprising information means for informing said external apparatus of an information of registration when a new approval service object is registered by said approval service provider.

17. (Currently Amended) An approval system comprising a service server, a client terminal and a request server,

wherein the service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider, and wherein each of the approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider,

wherein the client terminal includes approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal,

and wherein said request server includes:

approval request storage means for storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal;

acquisition means for searching for and acquiring an approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request stored in said approval request storage means, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

decision performing means for performing the approval decision for said approval request, based on said acquired approval service <u>object</u>; and

output means for outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision performing means.

18. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein said acquisition means retains said approval request in said approval request storage means in the case that the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request cannot be located in said service server, and, upon detecting registration of a new approval

service <u>object</u> in said service server, again searches for, and acquires, the approval service <u>object</u> matching said retained approval request.

19. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 18, wherein said service server further includes information means for informing said request server of an information of registration when a new approval service <u>object</u> is registered by said service provider.

20. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein an approval service <u>object</u> corresponding to an approval decider is registered in said service server in response to the log-in of said approval decider in said service provider, and an approval service <u>object</u> corresponding to said approval decider is deleted from said service server in response to the log-out of said approval decider from said service provider.

21. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein an approval service <u>object</u> stored in a card storing the approval service <u>object</u> is registered in said service server in response to the insertion of said card in said service provider and the approval service <u>object</u> stored in said card is deleted from said service server in response to the extraction of said card from said service provider.

22. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 21, wherein said card includes decision condition data to be used in said approval service object.

23. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 22, wherein said service provider prepares said approval service object and registers it in said service server, based on said decision condition data of said inserted card.

24. (Original) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein said client terminal further includes reception means for receiving the decision result outputted by said output means.

25. (Previously Presented) An approval system according to claim 24, wherein said client terminal further includes execution means for executing a process corresponding to said approval request in the case that said received decision result is an approval.

26. (Previously Presented) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein the decision condition includes a condition corresponding to the user of the client terminal and the content of said approval request.

27. (Currently Amended) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein said acquisition means further searches the approval service objects ~~services~~ stored in said approval service provider.

28. (Original) An approval system according to claim 17, wherein the decision result outputted by said output means is also outputted to said service provider.

29. (Currently Amended) An approval system comprising a service server and a client terminal,

wherein said service server manages plural approval service objects ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider, and wherein each of the approval service objects ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider;

wherein said client terminal comprises:

approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal;

search means for searching for an approval service object matching said approval request, among the plural approval service objects ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

transmission means for transmitting said approval request to said service server, in the case that the approval service object is located by said search means; and

reception means for receiving the result of approval decision for said approval request transmitted from said service server; and

said service server comprises:

decision performing means for performing the approval decision for the approval request transmitted from said client terminal, based on the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request; and

transmission means for transmitting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of said approval decision to said client terminal.

30. (Currently Amended) An approval system comprising a service server, a client terminal and a request server,

wherein said service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider,

wherein each of the approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider,

wherein said client terminal includes approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal, and

wherein said request server includes approval request storage means for storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal,

wherein said request server further includes:

approval request storage means for storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal;

search means for searching for an approval service <u>object</u> matching the approval request stored in said approval request storage means, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

transmission means for transmitting said approval service <u>object</u> to said service server, in the case that the approval service <u>object</u> is located by said search means; and

reception means for receiving the result of approval decision for said approval request from said service server; and

wherein said service server includes:

decision performing means for performing the approval decision for the approval request transmitted from said request server, based on the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request; and

transmission means for transmitting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of said approval decision to said request server.

31. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:

a receiving step for receiving an approval service <u>object</u> which includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider;

a storage step of storing the approval service <u>object</u> received in said receiving step;

an approval request preparing step for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user;

a decision step of deciding whether or not to approve said prepared approval request, based on said stored approval service <u>object</u>; and

an output step of outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision step.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising an execution step of executing a process corresponding to said approval request in the case that said outputted result of the decision is an approval.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein the decision condition includes a condition corresponding to the user of the information processing apparatus and the content of said approval request.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein said decision condition further includes a condition corresponding to the information processing method preparing said approval request.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, wherein said decision step determines a period for prohibiting an approval decision and rejects said approval request in the case that a current time is identified as within a prohibition period.

36. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system,

wherein the system includes a service server for managing plural approval service objects ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider and a client terminal having approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal, the method comprising, in said client terminal:

an approval request preparing step of preparing an approval request;

an acquisition step of searching for and acquiring an approval service object matching said approval request, among the plural approval service objects ~~services~~ registered in said service server, wherein the approval service object includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider;

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for said approval request, based on said acquired approval service object; and

an output step of outputting a [[the]] result of the decision of said decision performing step.

37. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 36, wherein said service provider registers said approval service object in said service server in response to the insertion of a card storing information of said approval service object and deletes the corresponding approval service object from said service server in response to the extraction of said card.

38. (Previously Presented) A control method for an approval system according to claim 36, wherein the method further comprises, in said client terminal, an approval request storage step of storing plural approval requests in a memory, the plural approval requests being prepared based on values entered by the user of the client terminal, and

wherein said decision performing step executes the approval decision process for said stored plural approval requests.

39. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 38, wherein said acquisition step searches for and acquires an approval service object matching said approval request among the plural approval service objects services stored in said service server upon detecting that said client terminal is connected to said service server through a network.

40. (Original) A control method for an approval system according to claim 39, wherein said client terminal is a portable terminal.

41. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 36, wherein said acquisition step searches for and acquires an approval service object matching said approval request among the plural approval service objects services stored in said service server in response to the insertion of a card storing said approval request into said client terminal.

42. (Previously Presented) A control method for an approval system according to claim 36, wherein the method further comprises, in said client terminal, an execution step of executing a process corresponding to said approval request in the case that said outputted decision result is an approval.

43. (Previously Presented) A control method for an approval system according to claim 36, wherein the decision condition includes a condition corresponding to the user of the client terminal and the content of said approval request.

44. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 36, wherein said acquisition step further searches the approval <u>service objects</u> <s>services</s> stored in said approval service provider.

45. (Currently Amended) A control method for a service server, comprising:

an approval service storage step of storing plural approval <u>service objects</u> <s>services</s> instructed for registration by an approval service provider, wherein each of the approval <u>service objects</u> <s>services</s> includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider; and

a <u>search and</u> transmission step of searching for an approval service <u>object</u> <u>which matches</u> <s>matching</s> an approval request based on a search instruction received from

an external apparatus, and transmitting said approval service <u>object</u> located by the search to said external apparatus,

wherein the external apparatus decides whether or not to approve the approval request based on the transmitted approval service <u>object</u>, and wherein the approval request is prepared based on values entered by a user.

46. (Currently Amended) A control method for a service server according to claim 45, further comprising an information step of informing said external apparatus of an information of registration when a new approval service <u>object</u> is registered by said approval service provider.

47. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system including a service server, a client terminal and a request server,

wherein the service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider, and wherein each of the approval <u>service</u> <u>objects</u> ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider,

wherein the client terminal prepares an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal,

and wherein the method comprises, in said request server:

an approval request storage step of storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal;

an acquisition step of searching for and acquiring an approval service <u>object</u> matching said stored approval request, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> <s>services</s> registered in said service server;

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for said approval request, based on said acquired approval service <u>object</u>; and

an output step of outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision performing step.

48. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein said acquisition step retains said approval request in said memory in the case that the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request cannot be located in said service server, and, upon detecting registration of a new approval service <u>object</u> in said service server, again searches and acquires the approval service <u>object</u> matching said retained approval request.

49. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 48, wherein the method further comprises, in said service server, an information step of informing said request server of an information of registration when a new approval service <u>object</u> is registered by said service provider.

50. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein an approval service <u>object</u> corresponding to an approval

decider is registered in said service server in response to the log-in of said approval decider in said service provider, and an approval service <u>object</u> corresponding to said approval decider is deleted from said service server in response to the log-out of said approval decider from said service provider.

51. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein an approval service <u>object</u> stored in a card storing the approval service <u>object</u> is registered in said service server in response to the insertion of said card in said service provider and the approval service <u>object</u> stored in said card is deleted from said service server in response to the extraction of said card from said service provider.

52. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 51, wherein said card includes decision condition data to be used in said approval service <u>object</u>.

53. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 52, wherein said service provider prepares said approval service <u>object</u> and registers it in said service server, based on said decision condition data of said inserted card.

54. (Original) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein the method in said client terminal further comprises a reception step for receiving the decision result outputted by said output step.

55. (Previously Presented) A control method for an approval system according to claim 54, wherein the method in said client terminal further comprises an execution step of executing a process corresponding to said approval request in the case that said received decision result is an approval.

56. (Previously Presented) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein the decision condition includes a condition corresponding to the user of the client terminal and the content of said approval request.

57. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein said acquisition step further searches the approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ stored in said approval service provider.

58. (Original) A control method for an approval system according to claim 47, wherein the decision result outputted by said output step is also outputted to said service provider.

59. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system including a service server and a client terminal,

wherein said service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider, and wherein each of the approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider, the method comprising, in said client terminal:

an approval request preparing step of preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal;

a search step of searching for an approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

a transmission step for transmitting said approval request to said service server, in the case that said approval service <u>object</u> is located by said search step; and

a reception step of receiving the result of approval decision for said approval request transmitted from said service server; and

the method comprising, in said service server:

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for the approval request transmitted from said client terminal, based on the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request; and

a transmission step of transmitting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of said approval decision to said client terminal.

60. (Currently Amended) A control method for an approval system including a service server, a client terminal and a request server,

wherein said service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider,

wherein each of the approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ including a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider,

wherein said client terminal prepares an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal, and

wherein said request server includes a memory for storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal, and

wherein the method in said request server comprises:

an approval request storage step of storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal;

a search step of searching for an approval service <u>object</u> matching the approval request stored in said approval request storage step, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

a transmission step for transmitting said approval service <u>object</u> to said service server, in the case that the approval service <u>object</u> is located by said search step; and

a reception step of receiving the result of approval decision for said approval request from said service server; and

the method in said service server comprising:

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for the approval request transmitted from said request server, based on the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request; and

a transmission step of transmitting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of said approval decision to said request server.

61. (Currently Amended) A computer program stored on a computer-readable medium and composed of computer executable codes comprising:

a receiving step of receiving an approval service <u>object</u> which includes a decision condition set by a user of an approval service provider;

a storage step of storing the approval service <u>object</u> received in said receiving step;

an approval request preparing step of preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user;

a decision step of deciding whether or not to approve said prepared approval request, based on said stored approval service <u>object</u>; and

an output step of outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision step.

62. (Currently Amended) A computer executable control program, stored on a computer-readable medium, for controlling an approval system,

wherein the approval system includes a service server for managing plural approval service objects ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider and a client terminal having approval request preparing means for preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal, the program comprising, in said client terminal:

an approval request preparing step of preparing an approval request;

an acquisition step of searching for and acquiring an approval service object matching said approval request, among the plural approval service objects ~~services~~ registered in said service server, wherein the approval service object includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider;

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for said approval request, based on said acquired approval service object; and

an output step of outputting a [[the]] result of the decision of said decision performing step.

63. (Currently Amended) A computer executable control program stored on a computer-readable medium and used for a service server, a client terminal and a request server, comprising:

an approval service storage step of storing plural approval service objects ~~services~~ instructed for registration by an approval service provider, wherein each of the approval service objects ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider; and

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a <u>search and</u> transmission step of searching for an approval service <u>object</u> which <u>matches</u> ~~matching~~ the approval request based on a search instruction received from an external apparatus, and transmitting said approval service <u>object</u> located by the search to said external apparatus,

wherein the external apparatus decides whether or not to approve the approval request based on the transmitted approval service <u>object</u>, and the approval request is prepared based on values entered by a user.

64. (Currently Amended) A computer executable control program for an approval system including a service server, a client terminal and a request server,

wherein the service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider, and wherein each of the approval <u>service</u> <u>objects</u> ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider,

wherein the client terminal prepares an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal,

and wherein the program comprises, in said request server:

an approval request storage step of storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal;

an acquisition step of searching for and acquiring an approval service <u>object</u> matching said stored approval request, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for said approval request, based on said acquired approval service <u>object</u>; and

an output step of outputting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of the decision of said decision performing step.

65. (Currently Amended) A computer executable control program for an approval system including a service server and a client terminal,

wherein said service server manages plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered by an approval service provider, and wherein each of the approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider, the program comprising, in said client terminal:

an approval request preparing step of preparing an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal;

a search step of searching for an approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request, among the plural approval <u>service objects</u> ~~services~~ registered in said service server;

a transmission for transmitting said approval request to said service server, in the case that said approval service <u>object</u> is located by said search step; and

a reception step of receiving the result of approval decision for said approval request transmitted from said service server; and

the program comprising in said service server:

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for the approval request transmitted from said client terminal, based on said approval service object matching said approval request; and

a transmission step of transmitting a [[the]] result of said approval decision to said client terminal.

66. (Currently Amended) A computer executable control program for an approval system including a service server, a client terminal and a request server,

wherein said service server manages plural approval service objects services registered by an approval service provider,

wherein each of the approval service objects services includes a decision condition set by a user of the approval service provider,

wherein said client terminal prepares an approval request based on values entered by a user of the client terminal,

wherein said request server includes a memory for storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal, and

wherein the program in said request server comprises:

an approval request storage step of storing the approval request prepared in said client terminal;

a search step of searching for an approval service object matching the approval request stored in said approval request storage step, among the plural approval service objects services registered in said service server;

a transmission step for transmitting said approval service <u>object</u> to said service server, in the case that the approval service <u>object</u> is located by said search step; and

a reception step of receiving the result of approval decision for said approval request from said service server; and

wherein the program in said service server comprises:

a decision performing step of performing the approval decision for the approval request transmitted from said request server, based on the approval service <u>object</u> matching said approval request; and

a transmission step of transmitting <u>a</u> [[the]] result of said approval decision to said request server.